

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

1 7 AUG 2004

## MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Celebration of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program During National Disability Employment Awareness Month—INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and is a perfect time to celebrate the Army's JWOD Program, "JWOD Works For America." Government purchase card users and acquisition personnel can help improve the lives of those who are blind or severely disabled by buying supplies and services furnished by nonprofit agencies that employ people who are blind or who have severe disabilities and by identifying more contracting opportunities suitable for the JWOD Program. People with disabilities desire to be productive. They produce services and supplies that meet the Army's mission needs in a timely and cost effective manner. Supporting the program is good for the Army and is good for the nation. I encourage the entire Army community to participate in the JWOD Program by purchasing the supplies and services JWOD produces and helping to identify new opportunities that are suitable for performance by a JWOD-sponsored nonprofit agency.

I am especially proud of the Army's efforts to provide employment and training opportunities for people with severe disabilities through our support of the JWOD Program. Under the JWOD Program, supplies and services purchased by the U.S. Army and other Federal agencies currently generate jobs for nearly 42,000 Americans who are blind or who have severe disabilities and provide employment opportunities for a population that has a 70 percent unemployment rate. This year, the Army has produced the enclosed CD-ROM that describes how the nonprofit agencies meet our mission and procurement needs under the JWOD Program. I encourage you to include it as part of an overall awareness campaign during the month of October.

You may learn more about the important role you can play in this program at www.jwod.gov or contact your local JWOD liaison at the contracting office on your local installation. Thank you for making a special effort to show your support of the JWOD Program during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October 2004—JWOD Works for America!

R. L. Brownlee

Acting Secretary of the Army

R. J. Brownlee

Enclosure

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